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What Washington Tongues Are Wagging About

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WASHINGTON.

Between Election Day and Inauguration Day, Washington cranks out a staggering amount of gossip.

Most of the talk during this period concerns jobs or, more precisely, the movement out of and into the high-level positions whose occupants run the executive end of the Federal government.

The rumors are especially interesting this year because President Johnson, who will make the final choices, is caught in an understandable conflict of impulses. He would like to continue in office many Kennedy appointees in the Cabinet and sub-cabinet whom he regards as highly competent. On the other hand, he wants the LBJ brand clearly visible on the Administration now that he has won election in his own right.

So, despite the President's

statement last week that he wants the entire Cabinet to stay on, the rumor mills keep grinding out bulletins. For the benefit of those who have not been to any Washington cocktail parties or beauty parlors lately, some choice gossip follows.

John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, may resign in the next few months. The only person being mentioned as a likely successor in this key post is Roswell L. Gilpatric, who returned to a prosperous New York law practice this year after serving with distinction as Deputy Secretary of Defense. Friends of Mr. Gilpatric say that no firm offer has been made and that he would be reluctant to leave his private business again. On the other hand, Mr. Johnson usually gets what he wants in terms of personal service.

The only present opening

in the Cabinet is at the Justice Department, where Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach has the title of Acting Attorney General. The White House has denied strenuously reports that Clark Clifford, a Washington attorney and friend of the President, will get the post. At least three others are being mentioned seriously: W. Willard Wirtz, now Secretary of Labor; Leon Jaworski, a Houston lawyer who had been close to the Johnson family, and Abe Fortas, a Washington attorney and Presidential confidante.

Until recently, many here were certain that Secretary of State Dean Rusk would soon leave the government. Now the outlook is for him to stay indefinitely. But W. Averell Harriman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs—third ranking man in the department—is reported to be preparing to leave.

Mr. Harriman is understood to be suffering from a dif-

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scuity that afflicts persons at his level and above from time to time—lack of access to the White House. If Mr. Harri-man does leave, the White House will have two im-portant jobs to fill at State: the Under Secretaryship and the Deputy Under Secretary-ship. The latter post is being held on a temporary basis by Llewellyn E. Thompson, the department's chief Russian expert.

Anthony J. Celebrezze, Sec-retary of Health, Education and Welfare is said to be moving toward the exit. Presi-dent Johnson reportedly would like to appoint the first Negro Cabinet member in history to that post. One candidate is Whitney M. Young jr., executive director of the Urban League. If Mr. Johnson does not select a Negro, he may choose Sargent Shriver, head of the Peace Corps and the domestic anti-poverty effort.

If Douglas Dillon leaves the Treasury early next year, which many consider likely,

his replacement might be Robert B. Anderson, who held the job under President Eisen-hower, or Donald C. Cook, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Com-mission.

Secretaries Orville Freeman of Agriculture and Luther Hodges of Commerce are also high on the list of candidates for private life. Buford Elling-ton, former Governor of Ten-nessee, is mentioned as a possible successor to Mr. Freeman. If that doesn't work out, Mr. Ellington will probably get some other important government post. Either LeRoy Collins, former Governor of Florida and now head of the Civil Rights Com-munity Relations Service, or Franklin D. Roosevelt, jr., Under Secretary of Com-merce, could take Mr. Hodges' place.

Postmaster General John Gronouski seemed marked for departure until recently. Now the rumors are going the other way.

The White House staff

seems in need of reinforce-ment and perhaps reshuffling.

One of the areas most likely to feel the winds of change is the press office, whose three present occupants, George Reedy, Malcolm Kilduff and David Waters, may be headed for other government jobs. A possible replacement for Mr. Reedy is Douglass Cater, a White House speech writer—idea man and former journal-ist.

There is always a good deal of movement in the ambas-sadorial field, especially after a Presidential election. In addition to career diplomats, big party contributors, de-feated Senatorial candidates and assorted others are con-sidered eligible. The best rumor in this department is that Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, Republican from New York, may become Ambassador to Israel. Every Administration likes to give a bi-partisan tone to its handling of foreign affairs and, as Republicans go, Sen. Keating is in good odor among Democrats.

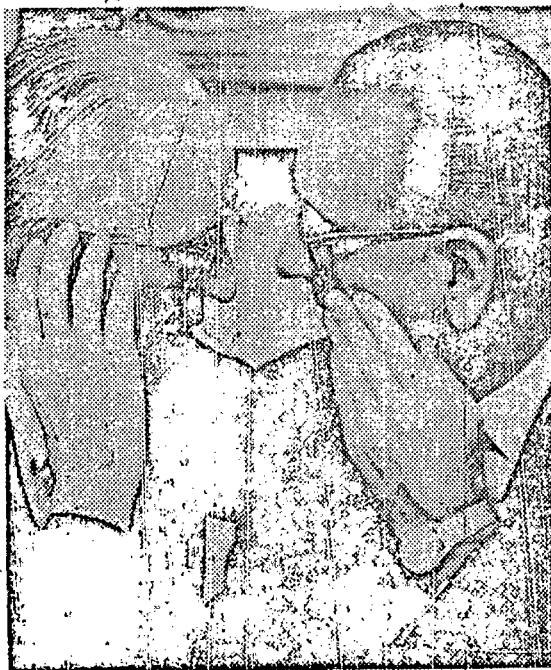


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